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IMPORTANT NOTICE!

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

The next regular meeting of the State Society will be held at Del Monte, April 16th, 17th, 18th, 1907; the Council is required

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by the by-laws to meet the day before (the 15th). Special rates have been made by the hotel and postal-card notices have been sent out to all members. If you intend to go and have not yet sent in the return postal giving your wishes as to rooms, etc., do so at once, for we are advised that the hotel may be quite full about that time in April. The usual arrangement as to railroad rates has been secured. The full fare is to be paid for the going trip, and the purchaser of the ticket *must secure from the agent at the time he buys the ticket, a receipt certificate.* This must be signed by the secretary and upon presentation to the agent at Del Monte the return ticket will be sold at one-third fare. The scientific program is progressing rapidly and there will be offered many topics of interest for your discussion. Unfortunately, owing to a necessary change in the date of publication of the JOURNAL, it will not be possible to publish a preliminary outline of the program; but it promises to be quite up to the excellent standard of the last few years. The symposium feature, found to be so satisfactory in the past, will be a striking portion of the present program. In addition to the scientific matters of interest, many very important problems, and matters affecting the Society and its welfare will come up for discussion, and every county society should be well represented. We all know what a beautiful place Del Monte is, and certainly those of

us who were fortunate enough to have attended the last meeting at that charming spot will not fail to attend the present session.

The JOURNAL has, on more than one occasion, referred to the somewhat curious attitude of the

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Medical Examiner and Practitioner, a monthly publication, supposedly issued in the interests of examiners for life insurance companies, toward the subject of reduced fees for examinations. This publication makes the plea that national, state and county medical organizations should not recognize the issue joined between the companies on the one side and the individual examiner on the other. That is exactly what the companies want. They know full well that physicians, as unorganized units, each acting for himself and without conference with his fellows, will perforce accept the ridiculous minimum fee of \$3.00; they know also that if we all stand together and refuse to accept this small fee, the companies will have to stop business or pay the \$5.00 fee. But the actual results of this campaign are discouraging. A physician in one of our Western states writes me of his experience. He absolutely refused to make the examinations for less than \$5.00—and he is now getting that fee. He states that, in a large territory, and despite the strenuous resolutions passed by various county societies, all the examiners save himself and one other are secretly accepting the \$3.00 fee. He says: "A man must value his own services in order to collect their value." "The profession has neither the backbone nor business sense sufficient to deserve \$5.00 for the work." His conclusions are: "(1) that the fight can be won and (2), that our profession will never win it." In some sections of our own state the fight has been won and \$5.00 is the minimum fee paid. Will it ever be won or the entire state? That depends upon the individual members of the various county societies and upon the honor of each one. The mere passage of resolutions will do nothing. If a man has not enough appreciation of his own worth and his own services to refuse to accept something less than they are worth, and if he will not be honest with himself and his fellows and abide by what he says he will do, the fight will never be won.

Is it worth while to be alive, or might one just as well be dead? "To be or not to be, that is the question." If one is going to

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live, why not live fully and helpfully and die with the knowledge that the world is at least no worse off for our having cumbered it for a brief space. There are so many things to be done, so much work waiting to one's hand, that it seems incredible that there can be any who may go through the world and live their lives without appreciating it. And for us, as physicians, there is perhaps more work than for others, who understand less well, all that needs to be done. We see every-

pedic work from the perusal of its initiatory volume, one can not fail to be impressed with the special fitness of the three score and more collaborators chosen by the erudite teacher, surgeon and editor, W. W. Keen, and to note their genuine desire to produce a thoroughly complete and standard work. Were additional proof of the foregoing statement necessary, one might refer to the active participation of many of these collaborators in the International Congress of Surgery, to which the choice surgical minds of the world had been invited. Echoes of this memorable Congress are clearly discernible in numerous sections of Keen's system of surgery.

The International Medical Annual; a Year Book of Treatment and Practitioner's Index, 1906. E. B. Treat and Company, \$1.50 net.

This is the twenty-fourth issue of the Medical Annual. Its contents are conveniently arranged. The general practitioner will be fortified by consulting the book, and the specialist can not fail to be broadened by perusing it. It affords really an interesting survey of medicine and surgery.

The review of therapeutic progress during 1905 begins with the statement that there has been no progress during that year, but much experience in the use of many drugs will be found recorded there. The communications of the sober-minded and the enthusiastic are concisely and impartially, but not uncritically, reproduced. He who may be toiling to support a failing heart is here apprised that "cactus grandiflorus is in every way superior to digitalis." Another whose resources are nigh to exhaustion will take heart when he reads that "Couch has found formic acid a marvelous remedy in rheumatic conditions and in arthritis deformans." The treatment of chorea has hitherto been efficacious and not unpleasant, but the man who would treat it with emetics is not allowed to languish in obscurity. Much interesting literature on new preparations such as digalen, alypin, iothion and on the administration of less recent ones like adrenalin and stovain, is excerpted in a practical manner. Lumbar puncture, the intravenous injection of oxygen, organotherapy and the X-rays are carefully considered. On surgical subjects, perhaps the most interesting contributions to the book are those by A. W. Mayo Robson; to his discussions of appendicitis and the surgery of the stomach neither physician nor surgeon will be indifferent. The advancement of research on syphilitic infection is recorded up to the time of the successful transmission of the disease to apes, but the publication preceded the discovery of the spirochaeta pallida. These specimens may suffice to give some idea of the diversity of the matter contained in the book. From the list of subjects which follow one another in alphabetical order and are treated by very competent writers, nothing of importance seems to have been omitted between acne and yaws.

An Introduction to Physiology. By William Townsend Porter, M. D., Associate Professor of Physiology in the Harvard Medical School. Philadelphia and London: J. B. Lippincott & Co., 1906.

The present volume, says the author in the preface to the second edition, is a collection of fundamental experiments in several fields, printed in an abbreviated form for the temporary use of Harvard medical students and other interested persons. From another part of the preface we learn that in pursuance of the "Concentration" system the Harvard medical student is able to devote his second half-year entirely to physiology and biological chemistry. If this young man, highly favored by so capable guidance in his observation and experiments as may be found in the work before us, avail him-

self of his opportunities, he might excite the envy of the many who have had to acquire their knowledge of physiology in a less practical way—an envy, however, probably often tempered by the consideration that many have learned and few know.

After the General Properties of Living Tissues have been elucidated by remarks and experiments on the electrical, chemical and mechanical stimulation of muscle and nerve, the Income of Energy is illustrated by work on fermentation, blood and respiration, and under the Outgo of Energy heat, electromotive phenomena, the Central Nervous System, physiological Optics and other subjects are considered. The apparatus required, the mode of conducting the experiment, the observations to be made and the conclusions to be derived are clearly set forth. Theory is not neglected. The student is prepared by the account of the motor points, blood-counts, the use of the ophthalmoscope for his subsequent clinical activity. The book does all that a book of the kind can do. He who follows its precepts will come close to nature and get his facts at first hand.

The Practitioner's Medical Dictionary. An illustrated dictionary of medicine and allied subjects, including all the words and phrases generally used in medicine, with their proper pronunciation, derivation and definition. By George M. Gould, A. M., M. D. With 338 illustrations. Octavo; xvi plus 1043 pages. Flexible leather, gilt edges, rounded corners, \$5.00; with thumb index, \$6.00 net. P. Blakiston's Son & Co., publishers, 1012 Walnut street, Philadelphia.

This book is in every respect and detail new. Its object is to supply the practitioner with trustworthy, modern definitions of essential medical words and terms. It is based on recent medical literature. It contains among other new features the terms of the Basle Anatomical Nomenclature (BNA). The standards of pharmaceutical preparations as authorized by the eighth decennial revision of the United States Pharmacopoeia are given. Tables of signs and abbreviations used in general medicine and the specialties, and of the English and metric systems of weights and measures are introduced.

Thornton's Pocket Medical Formulary. New (8th) edition, revised to accord with the new United States Pharmacopoeia. Containing about 2,000 prescriptions, with indications for their use. In one leather bound volume. Price \$1.50 net. Lea Brothers & Co., publishers, Philadelphia and New York, 1907.

AN HONOR TO A CALIFORNIA SURGEON.

It is with pleasure that we note in the January number of the "Bulletin of the Surgical Society of Paris" that a distinguished member of our society, Dr. Dudley Tait, of San Francisco, has been elected one of the foreign corresponding members. As the number of such members is strictly limited, the election to this membership is a distinct honor, and we congratulate Dr. Tait.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

The Journal of Inebriety, after thirty years of continuous studies of the disease of inebriety and drug taking, begins its new decade by entering upon comparatively new fields of physiological and psychological therapeutics, for the treatment of these neurosis. Arrangements have been completed by which the Archives of Physiological Therapy has been consolidated and will hereafter be published as a part of the Journal of Inebriety.